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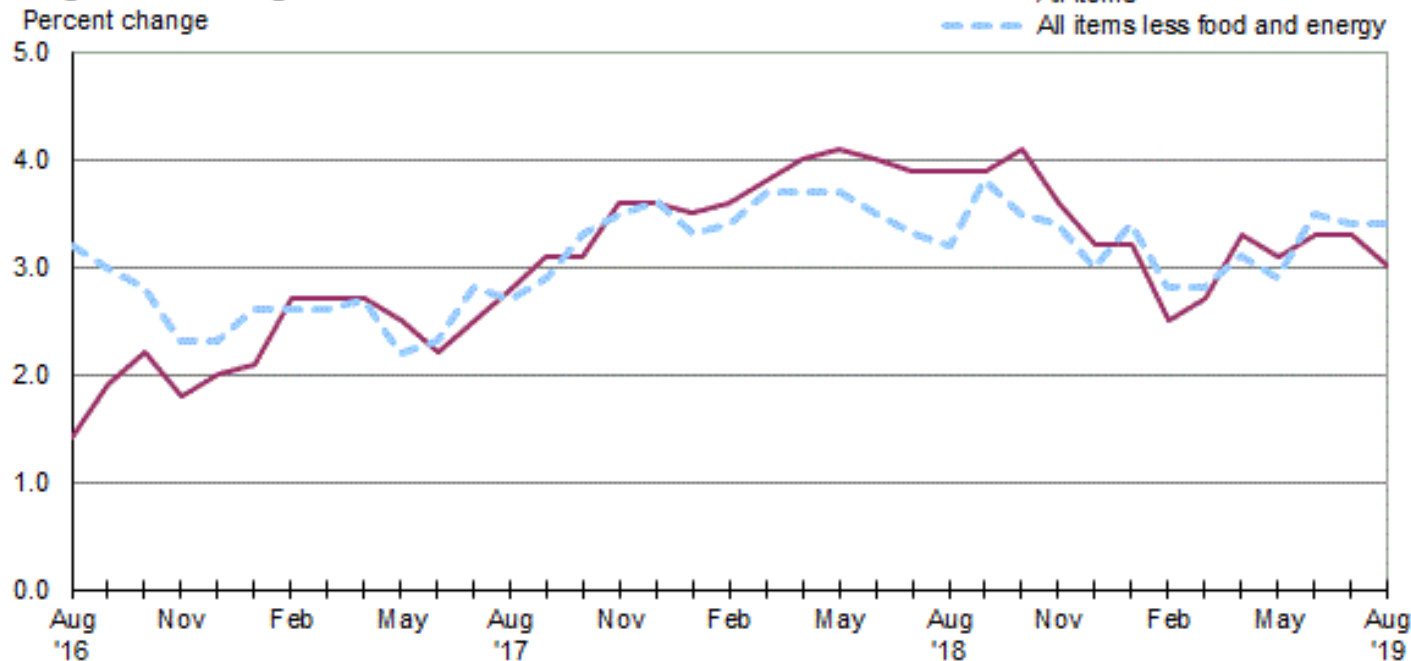
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – August 2019

Area prices were unchanged over the past month, up 3.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that during this period lower prices for energy helped counter higher prices for all items less food and energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 3.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.4 percent over the year. Food prices increased 2.8 percent. Energy prices decreased 2.1 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of natural gas service. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, August 2016–August 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched down 0.1 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home were virtually unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.8 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 5.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.8 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.4 percent). Prices for electricity decreased 2.1 percent, and prices for natural gas service declined 0.9 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 2.1 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for natural gas service (-18.3 percent). Prices for gasoline decreased 1.4 percent, but prices paid for electricity advanced 3.0 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in August. Higher prices for apparel (2.0 percent), education and communication (0.6 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-1.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.9 percent) and medical care (4.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in recreation (-2.0 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2
February.....	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5
March.....	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7
April.....	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3
May.....	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1
June.....	-0.3	0.8	0.1	1.8	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3
July.....	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3
August.....	-0.3	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0
September.....	-0.4	0.7	0.2	1.9	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9		
October.....	0.2	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1		
November.....	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.8	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6		
December.....	-0.1	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2		

The September 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on October 10, 2019.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, Los Angeles and Riverside have separate indexes. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles and Orange Counties in the State of California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	274.380	274.682	274.579	3.0	0.1	0.0
All items (1967=100)	810.640	811.534	811.228	-	-	-
Food and beverages	265.569	266.975	266.821	2.6	0.5	-0.1
Food	266.300	267.789	267.539	2.8	0.5	-0.1
Food at home	255.135	256.670	255.824	0.4	0.3	-0.3
Cereals and bakery products	273.550	278.288	271.840	3.8	-0.6	-2.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	276.577	279.145	277.930	-1.0	0.5	-0.4
Dairy and related products	247.328	245.850	250.521	3.9	1.3	1.9
Fruits and vegetables	344.121	345.694	347.604	1.9	1.0	0.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	256.609	255.491	258.151	-2.7	0.6	1.0
Other food at home	196.263	197.945	194.663	-1.0	-0.8	-1.7
Food away from home	274.377	275.796	276.171	5.1	0.7	0.1
Food away from home	274.377	275.796	276.171	5.1	0.7	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	239.605	239.819	240.962	1.1	0.6	0.5
Housing	315.967	317.017	317.261	4.4	0.4	0.1
Shelter	364.285	365.102	366.290	4.9	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2)	384.472	386.502	387.736	5.5	0.8	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	378.241	379.331	380.668	5.0	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	378.219	379.309	380.646	5.0	0.6	0.4
Fuels and utilities	330.978	336.032	332.419	-1.7	0.4	-1.1
Household energy	285.199	290.527	285.464	-3.5	0.1	-1.7
Energy services(2)	283.915	289.173	284.022	-3.6	0.0	-1.8
Electricity(2)	328.400	332.992	326.047	3.0	-0.7	-2.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	230.518	237.789	235.594	-18.3	2.2	-0.9
Household furnishings and operations	122.835	123.428	121.574	4.8	-1.0	-1.5
Apparel	107.736	105.821	107.937	0.3	0.2	2.0
Transportation	218.918	217.078	214.119	0.5	-2.2	-1.4
Private transportation	215.066	214.303	211.461	0.6	-1.7	-1.3
New and used motor vehicles(4)	91.783	92.094	91.674	-0.4	-0.1	-0.5
New vehicles(1)	170.548	168.876	168.590	-0.1	-1.1	-0.2
Used cars and trucks(1)	269.839	273.654	276.858	1.6	2.6	1.2
Motor fuel	289.321	285.269	275.496	-1.3	-4.8	-3.4
Gasoline (all types)	282.687	278.711	269.106	-1.4	-4.8	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	282.930	278.800	269.084	-1.6	-4.9	-3.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	272.609	268.892	260.694	-0.5	-4.4	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	269.393	266.404	257.613	-0.8	-4.4	-3.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	774.857	774.857	774.857	2.1	0.0	0.0
Medical care	484.327	486.727	486.938	4.0	0.5	0.0
Recreation(6)	104.541	104.282	104.271	-2.0	-0.3	0.0
Education and communication(6)	147.723	148.046	148.897	1.7	0.8	0.6
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,915.729	1,920.755	1,951.333	5.4	1.9	1.6
Other goods and services	440.145	443.955	446.607	4.4	1.5	0.6
Commodity and service group						
All items	274.380	274.682	274.579	3.0	0.1	0.0
Commodities	185.060	184.820	183.672	1.2	-0.8	-0.6
Commodities less food & beverages	142.742	141.895	140.444	0.2	-1.6	-1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	194.186	192.698	190.511	-0.5	-1.9	-1.1
Durables	93.110	92.839	92.070	1.4	-1.1	-0.8
Services	353.871	354.652	355.469	3.8	0.5	0.2

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Aug. 2018	Jun. 2019	Jul. 2019
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	265.171	265.392	265.277	2.9	0.0	0.0
All items less shelter.....	234.840	234.910	234.219	1.7	-0.3	-0.3
Commodities less food	147.071	146.242	144.840	0.2	-1.5	-1.0
Nondurables	231.408	231.210	229.904	1.1	-0.6	-0.6
Nondurables less food.....	199.311	197.895	195.860	-0.4	-1.7	-1.0
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	348.341	349.081	349.377	2.1	0.3	0.1
Services less medical care services.....	341.972	342.706	343.500	3.7	0.4	0.2
Energy	289.953	289.143	280.943	-2.1	-3.1	-2.8
All items less energy	275.518	275.897	276.331	3.3	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy	277.384	277.590	278.131	3.4	0.3	0.2

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.